

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended)      A motor vehicle optical ring network, comprising:

an optical data line configured in a ring network and having a plurality of data channels;

a plurality of ~~at least one~~ data sources each connected to the optical data line, where ~~and each~~  
of the plurality of data sources provides compressed multimedia data onto the optical data line and  
each of the plurality of data sources is free of decoders that provide decompressed multimedia data  
onto the optical data line; and

at least one data sink connected to the optical data line and comprising a video display device, and that receives the compressed multimedia data from the optical data line, where the data sink includes a bit stream decoder to decompress the received compressed multimedia data and provide (i) a decompressed video data signal indicative thereof to the video display device and (ii) a decompressed audio signal;

where the at least one data sink also includes a control unit that selectively adapts the decompression of the received compressed multimedia data by the bit stream decoder based upon the

compression format of the received compressed multimedia data, where the format of the received compressed multimedia data may be one of a plurality of compression formats, where the control unit also controls the data channels of the optical data line for transmitting the compressed data between the data sources and the data sink.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The motor vehicle optical ring network of claim 6, where the bit stream decoder includes an MPEG decoder, a JPEG decoder and an AC-3 decoder.

12. (Previously Presented) The motor vehicle optical ring network of claim 6, where the at least one data source comprises a DVD player connected to the optical data line and provides the compressed multimedia data onto the optical data line.

13. (Currently Amended) The motor vehicle optical ring network of claim 62, further comprising a second data source including a radio receiver that provides compressed audio data onto the optical data line.

14. (Previously Presented) The motor vehicle optical ring network of claim 12, where the bit stream decoder is selectively configured as one of an MPEG decoder and an AC-3 decoder in response to control signal data received by the bit stream decoder over the optical data line.

15. (Currently Amended) An optical ring network for a motor vehicle multimedia system, comprising:

an optical data line configured as a ring network and having a plurality of data channels;

a first data source comprising a radio receiver, which is connected to the optical data line, and provides compressed audio data onto the optical data line;

a second data source that is connected to the optical data line, and provides compressed multimedia data onto the optical data line, where each of the first and second data sources is free of decoders that provide decompressed multimedia data onto the optical data line; and

at least one data sink that includes a video display device and is connected to the optical data line, and that receives the compressed multimedia data, where the at least one data sink includes a ~~first~~ bit stream decoder to decompress the received compressed multimedia data and provide (i) a decompressed video data signal indicative thereof for display by the video display device, and (ii) a decompressed audio signal to a loudspeaker, and where the at least one data sink includes a control unit that selectively adapts the decompression of the received compressed multimedia data to a format of the received compressed multimedia data, where the format of the received compressed multimedia data includes one of a plurality of compression formats, where the control unit also controls the data channels of the optical data line for transmitting the compressed data between the data sources and the data sink.

16. (Currently Amended) The optical ring network of claim 15, where the ~~second~~ bit stream decoder decodes MPEG and AC-3 data.

17. (Currently Amended) The optical ring network of claim 156, where the first bit stream decoder decodes MPEG and JPEG data.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The optical ring network of claim 158, where the second data source includes a digital video disc (DVD) player.

20. (Currently Amended) A motor vehicle network, comprising:

a ring network having a plurality of data channels;

a first one data source connected within the ring network, and provides compressed multimedia data within the ring network;

a second data source connected within the ring network, where the second data source comprises a radio receiver that provides a received radio signal to an encoder that provides compressed audio data indicative thereof within the ring network, where each of the first and second data sources is free of decoders that provide decompressed multimedia data onto the ring network;

a first data sink comprising a video display device and connected within the ring network, and that receives the compressed multimedia data from within the ring network, where the first data sink includes a bit stream decoder to decompress the received compressed multimedia data and

provide corresponding decompressed video data to the video display device ; and

a second data sink connected within the ring network, and which receives the compressed audio data and provides decompressed audio data indicative thereof;

where the first data sink includes a control unit that selectively adapts the decompression of the received compressed multimedia data by the bit stream decoder based upon the compression format of the received compressed multimedia data, and the control unit also controls the data channels of the ring network for transmitting the compressed data between the data sources and the data sink.

21. (Previously Presented) The motor vehicle network of claim 20, further comprising a loudspeaker that receives the decompressed audio data.

22. (Previously Presented) The motor vehicle network of claim 20, where the bit stream decoder comprises an MPEG decoder.